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Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"In view of the fact that nearly half the money is to be made up, may I know whether it is the intention of the Government not to carry out this programme within the next five years, or whether they have made any suggestions to the local board, or whether the matter is under correspondence and if so will the hon. the Minister be pleased to place that on the table of the House ?"

The hon. the President :—"It is an excessively long question and so it is not admissible."

Registration

Acting clerks in the Registration department in West Godavari district.

*825-A Q.—Mr. D. Narayana Raju : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many acting clerks there are in the Registration department, West Godavari district, and to what communities they belong ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the only Brahman acting clerk in the Registration department, West Godavari district, was ousted on communal grounds ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that he had to his credit long acting service and good work and conduct ?

A.—Information has been called for.

Additional establishment for sub-registry offices in West Godavari.

*825-B Q.—Mr. D. Narayana Raju : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are contemplating the establishment of any additional sub-registrar's offices in West Godavari district ; and

(b) if so, where they are proposed to be located ?

A.—(a) & (b) No.

Corporation of Madras

Timber tax collected by the Corporation of Madras during 1921—1927.

*826 Q.—Dr. B. S. Mallayya : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what is the amount collected as timber tax by the Corporation of Madras during each of the years 1921 to 1927 ;

(b) what is the amount of rebate given on timber alleged to have been exported from the city of Madras during each of the years 1921 to 1927 ;

(c) whether there was any irregularity in the payment of this rebate, or defalcation in the timber accounts of the Corporation ; and

(d) what action the Government propose to prevent a repetition of those irregularities ?

A.—(a) & (b) A statement [a] is annexed.

(c) The hon. Member is referred to the report of the Timber Defalcations Enquiry Committee appointed by the Madras Corporation in 1925 for an answer to this question ;

[a] Printed as Appendix IV on page 527 infra.

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(*d*) the amendment of section 129 (1) of the City Municipal Act 1919, to put a stop to the system of refunds of timber tax is under consideration.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"From the answer to (*a*) and (*b*), may I know whether the Government have satisfied themselves that these irregularities entail a loss of Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 53,000 ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Government have been aware of these irregularities and we have said that these must be put a stop to."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"May I know what action the Government have taken on the report of the defalcation ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"The Corporation has taken action."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—"Do not the Government think that any action on their part is necessary ? Is it not the duty of Government to see that justice is done at least for the sake of the interests of the rate-payers ?"

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Government do not think any useful purpose will be served by doing so."

Dr. B. S MALLAYYA :—"Is it beyond the power of the Government to bring the culprits to book ?"

Education

Pay of drawing masters in Government educational institutions.

*827 Q.—Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the scale of pay of the drawing masters in Government educational institutions ;

(*b*) whether the Government will consider the advisability of placing them at least on the scale of the second-grade teachers ; and

(*c*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the suggestions of the 19th Provincial Educational Conference held at Vellore in 1927 urging the immediate introduction of standardized salaries as given there and recommending that the adoption of standardized scales be made a condition of recognition and aid ?

A.—(*a*) The scale of pay for drawing masters is Rs. 35—35—1½—50—1—60 when employed in training colleges and Rs. 25—1—50 when employed in other institutions.

(*b*) The scales of pay were revised in 1923. The Government do not propose to undertake a further revision at present.

(*c*) Yes.

Pay of teachers transferred from boys' to girls' schools under Kavali Taluk Board.

*828 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in all Provincial girls' schools in the Kavali Taluk Board area male teachers who are transferred from boys' schools are paid the same pay that they were receiving as teachers of boys' schools and not the scale of pay existing in the girls' schools ;